

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 ORM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OPR-02 A-01 SR-02 AID-20 CCO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00

FBO-02 OC-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 VO-03 ITF-05 /123 W

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O R 140955Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3809

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3326

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

REF: VIENTIANE 3246

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED ME IN TO CONVEY  
A PREPOSTEROUS COLLECTION OF RUMORS REGARDING SUPPOSED  
PLOTING AT UDORN BY FORMER PGNU CABINET MINISTERS,  
RLGAF GENERAL OFFICERS, THAI MILITARY LEADERS AND "THE  
CIA CHIEF" IN UDORN. HE ALSO INVOKED NAME OF GEN. PHOUMI  
NOSAVAN AND SUGGESTED ONE OBJECT OF ALLEGED PLOTING  
WAS TO DETACH SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE FROM REST OF LAOS.  
I REPUDIATED THESE ALLEGATIONS IN MOST FORMAL MANNER,  
MADE CLEAR OUR SUPPORT OVER TWO YEARS FOR VIENTIANE  
ACCORDS AND PGNU, AND AFFIRMED THAT WE WERE NOT  
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NOR HAD EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN ANTI-PGNU ACTIVITIES.

I THEN RAISED TODAY'S ANTI-USAID DEMONSTRATIONS AT LUANG PRABANG AND SAVANNAKHET AND CONTRADICTION THEY REPRESENTED HIS AND PRIME MINISTER'S EARLIER ASSURANCES. PHOUMI DID LITTLE MORE THAN STATE HE WOULD LOOK INTO SITUATION.

ON LEARNING THIS P.M. OF SEIZURE OF THREE AMERICAN USAID EMPLOYEES AT SAVANNAKHET, I RELAYED WORD TO PHOUMI IMMEDIATELY AND AM NOW TRYING TO REACH PRIME MINISTER. I PROPOSE TO SAY I AM SEEKING AUTHORITY FROM WASHINGTON TO STOP ALL PRO

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GRAMS AND WITHDRAW BULK OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SHORT ORDER, UNLESS THREE HOSTAGES ARE RELEASED FORTHWITH. END SUMMARY.

1. AT FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT'S REQUEST, I CALLED ON HIM THIS MORNING AT 1130. HE WANTED TO SEE ME, HE SAID, BECAUSE AS I KNEW LAOS WAS GOING THROUGH A TROUBLED PERIOD; MANY MINISTERS AND GENERALS AND SOME CIVIL SERVANTS HAD FLED FROM THE COUNTRY. HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING AT "HQ 333" AT UDORN OF SOME OF THESE MINISTERS AND GENERALS TOGETHER WITH THAI MILITARY OFFICERS AND "THE CIA CHIEF THERE." ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, MEETING HAD DISCUSSED WAYS OF CREATING TROUBLES IN LAOS. PHOUMI UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE AT UDORN A NUMBER OF LAO WAR PLANES AND LAO PILOTS. FURTHERMORE, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GROUP AT THE MEETING HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL PHOUMI NASAVAN, WHO IT WAS SAID HAD FORCES FINANCED BY THE THAI MILITARY. THE MINISTER HAD ALSO HEARD THAT THERE WAS A PLAN TO SEIZE SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE. (HIS PRESENTATION WAS AS DISJOINTED AS THAT BUT CLEARLY HE WAS PUTTING ALL RUMORS TOGETHER TO INDICATE THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE MIGHT BE A THREAT TO LAOS.) HE SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A LETTER TO RTG TO REQUEST THAT ALL LAO REFUGEES NOT BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THAILAND BUT BE EXPELLED TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY. HE HAD ALSO A REPORT THAT GENERAL KOU PRASITH ABHAY, WHO HE SAID WAS NOW RPT NOW IN BANGKOK, HAD DRAWN UP A LIST OF 5,000 LAO REFUGEES WHOM THE U.S. HAD PROMISED TO FEED AND SUPPORT. I LOOKED PAINED AND ASTONISHED AT HAVING TO

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DENY ANOTHER SILLY RUMOR.

2. I LET HIM MAKE HIS PRESENTATION WITHOUT INTERRUPTION AND THEN DECLARED IN MOST SOLEMN FASHION THAT I COULD ASSURE HIM FORMALLY AND OFFICIALLY THAT USG HAD MAINTAINED SAME POLICY FOR TWO YEARS; USG HAD ENCOURAGED SIGNING OF VIENTIANE ACCORDS AND PROTOCOL; USG HAD SUPPORTED PRIME MINISTER AND PGNU; USG HAD NEVER ENCOURAGED ANY

EFFORT, MUCH LESS COUP, TO UNDERMINE PGNU. AS REGARDS ALLEGED MEETING, I DECLARED FORMALLY AND OFFICIALLY THAT NO SUCH MEETING INVOLVING AN AMERICAN WAS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING TROUBLES IN LAOS. I AFFIRMED THAT WE HAD NOT ENCOURAGED OR AIDED ANY OF THE MINISTERS OR GENERALS TO FLEE TO THAILAND. THEY HAD MADE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AND LEFT BY THEIR OWN MEANS.

3. PHOUMI SAID HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED WHAT I HAD SAID BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER I COULD BE SURE OF WHAT THE CIA DID. HE RECALLED GENERAL MA'S COUP IN AUGUST, 1973, WHICH MR. DEAN HAD HELPED PUT DOWN. HE HAD HAD A REPORT THAT THAI MILITARY AND THE CIA WERE INVOLVED IN ITS PREPARATION. I AGAIN DECLARED THAT EVERY ELEMENT OF THE USG COMES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THAT I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT EVERY ELEMENT OF THE USG SUPPORTED THE POLICY AS I HAD ENUNCIATED IT.

4. IT WAS THEN MY TURN TO TELL FONMIN THAT AS I HAD CALLED HIS OFFICE EARLIER, WE HAD REPORTS THAT THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS IN LUANG PRABANG AND SAVANNAKHET; THAT AT FORMER CROWD HAD VANDALIZED USAID OFFICES AND AT LATTER DEMONSTRATORS HAD OCCUPIED THESE OFFICES. THIS WAS COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO ASSURANCES THAT I HAD RECEIVED FROM HIM AND PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE JCCIA LOOK INTO SITUATION AT SAVANNAKHET (IT WAS IN VIENTIANE SIDE, HE EXPLAINED), BUT HE LOOKED GENUINELY SURPRISED REGARDING SITUATION AT LUANG PRABANG AND SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH POLICE THERE. I REPEATED WHAT I HAD SAID EARLIER THAT PGNU COULD NOT ON ONE HAND MAKE REASSURING STATEMENTS AND ON THE OTHER HAND HAVE DEMONSTRATORS ACT COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO THESE ASSURANCES, PARTICULARLY SINCE EVERY DIPLOMATIC OBSERVER

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IN TOWN RECOGNIZED THAT THESE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HIGHLY ORGANIZED AND THEIR LEADERSHIP HAD VERY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH LPF. HE DEMURRED AND TALKED ABOUT "21" ORGANIZATIONS. I THEN PULLED OUT YESTERDAY'S PL BULLETIN THAT CARRIED KHAM OUANE BOUPHA'S STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN BROADCAST AND WHICH I HAD PROTESTED (REFTEL). EVIDENTLY HE HAD NOT SEEN BULLETIN BUT INDICATED THAT THIS WAS AN ERROR.

5. ON LEARNING THIS AFTERNOON OF SEIZURE OF THREE AMERICAN USAID EMPLOYEES AT SAVANNAKHET, I RELAYED WORK TO PHOUMI IMMEDIATELY. HAVING NOW RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT SANFORD STONE, CHARLES PEARCY AND DANIEL STER ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGES AT CHAO KHEOUNG'S OFFICE TO INSURE PGNU AUTHORITIES MEET WITH THEM, I AM NOW TRYING TO REACH BOTH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO INFORM THEM

THAT I AM SEEKING AUTHORITY FROM WASHINGTON TO STOP  
ALL PROGRAMS AND HAVE BULK OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEAVE  
IN SHORT ORDER UNLESS THREE ARE RELEASED FORTHWITH.  
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## Message Attributes

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